THE REHEARSAL,

1. Gives ſome Account of his *Sick-Bed* Thoughts, particularly as to theſe *Papers*. We ſee nothing but *Condemnation* in our ſelves.
2. Wherein then lies our *Comfort* and *Aſſurance*.
3. The *Prieſthood* of *Chriſt* is *Delegated* to His *Prieſts* upon *Earth*, with Power to offer the Same *Sacrifice* as He do's in *Heaven*.
4. The *Church* Conducts us to *Heaven*, as well by the Power of the *Keys*, as by *Preaching*.
5. The vile *Contempt* of theſe things among Us, even to *Blaſphemy*, of the moſt *Hideous* ſort that ever was Heard!
6. The *Satisfaction* I have had in *Oppoſing* theſe things, and Aſſerting the *Monarchy* of *God* upon *Earth*.
7. Who Deny the *Delegated Prieſthood* of *Chriſt*, Deny His own *Prieſthood*. And will have Him for their *King* to *Puniſh* them, but not for their *Prieſt* to *Save* them.

WEDNESDAY, *Auguſt* 4. 1708.

Country-m. I'M Glad to ſee you again, *Maſter*, you look like one Roſe out of the Grave.

(1.) *Rehearſ.* I have been very ill, *Country-man*, and thought I was going to leave you for good and all. And among other things I had time to reflect upon your Converſation and mine. I took no Pleaſure in the mixture of *Levity* and *Merriment* we have had, eſpecially at the Beginning, as I did not at the time; but I thought it was neceſſary to Introduce what I had to ſay by way of Inſtruction to the Groſly Deluded People of this Nation, who wou'd not otherwiſe have heard me. And keeping within the Rules of *Innocence* and *Decency*, I had no Grief of Heart upon that Account. The Objection was only as to my own *Reputation*, which appears very little, *Country-man*, to one who is taking his laſt Farewell of the World. But I thought Nothing little that was Intended for the ſervice of *God* and His *Truth*. It is *Guilt*, *Guilt* only, and Wicked *Intentions*, which then Stick Cloſe to a man; for theſe go along with him to the other State, and he muſt give an Account of them. But (Alaſs!) what Account can he give? His *Repentance* is Weak and Unworthy, and fit to be *Repented* of. And all our *Righteouſneſs* is as *Filthy Raggs*. How then Dare we appear in the Preſence of *God!* Here is nothing before us but *Condemnation*! Ther is nothing in our ſelves whence any *Comfort* or *Aſſurance* can ariſe! All is *Darkneſs* and utter *Deſpair!*

(2.) But then, as the *Serpent* was lifted up in the Wilderneſs, ſo we look by *Faith* upon our Great *High-Prieſt* who was lifted up upon the *Croſs* for Us, that whoever *Believeth* in Him ſhou'd have *Eternal Life*. And tho' our *Faith* be Weak, yet the vertue is not in our *Faith*, which is only the *Hand* that Reaches the *Medicine* to Us. The whole *Vertue* is in the *Medicine*, in the all Full and Sufficient *Satisfaction* which *Chriſt* has made for Us, in His own *Perſon*, wholly without Us; tho' Apply'd Inwardly by *Faith*. Which alſo is the Gift of *God*.

(3.) And as *Chriſt* in His own *Perſon* perpetually Offers up the *Sacrifice* of Himſelf (once made) in the Preſence of His *Father* in *Heaven*, to Interpoſe betwixt the *Wrath* of *God* and our *Sins*: So has he Ordain'd *Prieſts* upon *Earth*, to Repreſent His *Perſon*, and Offer the ſame *Sacrifice* in *Reſemblance* and *Figure*, under the Holy *Symbols* He has Commanded, which therefore He calls His own *Body* and *Blood*; Granting us hereby to be made Partakers of them, really and truly, in an outward and viſible Manner; And His *Prieſts* to Offer them up to *God* on *Earth*, in Conjunction with the ſame which He Celebrates in His own *Perſon* in *Heaven*, making both one and the ſelf ſame *Sacrifice*, and uniting *Heaven* and *Earth* together,

while

while all things here are done according to the *Pattern* of things in *Heaven*.

(4.) And both being thus made one *Family*, and the *Earth* the Road to *Heaven*, He has Committed to His *Vice Prieſts* on *Earth* the *Keys* of the *Kingdom* of *Heaven*, to *Open* and to *Shut*, to *Remit* and *Retain* Sins, with Promiſe to *Ratify* their *Sentence* (when Juſtly paſs'd) in *Heaven*. To ſhew that our way Thither is Chalk'd out for Us, and that we may not Deviſe New Means of our own Invention in Neglect of that *Church* He has Inſtituted for this End, and to Conduct Us as well by her *Diſciplin* as her *Doctrin*.

(5.) But we have Burſt the Bonds, and Caſt away their *Cords* from Us——We have *Ridicul'd* all the Glorious *Oeconomy* of our *Salvation* under the Contemptible Name of *Prieſt-Craft*. Which Reflects principally upon our Great *High-Prieſt*. We have ſent a Meſſenger after Him, to tell him, *We will not have this Man to Reign over Us*. We bid Him come in *Perſon* (as the *Jews* in Mockery bade Him come down from the *Croſs* becauſe they thought He cou'd not.) But in the mean time we Deſpiſe the *Delegation* He has made of His *Prieſthood* to Men like our ſelves. We think we can be as good *Prieſts* to our Selves; or have None at all——We call the *Sacrifice* He has Appointed of Himſelf upon *Earth*, a *Grace-Cup*, and that the *Health* may be Begun by a *Woman* a *Goſſip*, as well as by any *Prieſt*! That the *People* may make *Prieſts*, and *Sacraments* too to themſelves, if they think they want them! Nay that *God* Himſelf has no *Right* to Govern them, unleſs they pleaſe to put it to the *Vote*; And that He cannot Exceed what *Regulations* they pleaſe to put upon His *Government*, which is Deriv'd from their Superior *Authority*! Theſe are the Utmoſt Stretches of *Blaſphemy*! And ſuch as I Suppoſe no Age before this ever knew. But with Us they are *Rampant*, in *Print* and in *Vogue* every where! They are Recommendations to Men of *Wit*! And *Adornments* of *Converſation*!

(6.) You and I have Spent many a Day, *Country-Man*, upon theſe Subjects. And I aſſure you I do not Repent it. I did Bleſs *God* in my Sickneſs who had given me Opportunity to ſay ſo much againſt theſe Growing and moſt Pernicious *Principles* of the *Age*, more than I cou'd have done any other way. And I thought my Work was done, when He pleas'd to Call me. I did Believe I was Defending the *Monarchy* of *God* on *Earth*, as well as in *Heaven*. All the Difference being, That the *Government* of *Heaven* is in the Hands of *Angels*, to whom *God* has *Delegated* His *Authority*, according to their ſeveral *Orders*, in Subjection to *Chriſt* whom He has made *Head* over them all. And on *Earth* He has *Delegated* His *Power* unto *Men*, who Govern the World under Him, and by His *Authority*. It is all the *Monarchy* of *God* ſtill. And who Uſurp it *Without* or *Againſt* His *Authority*, are Guilty of *High-Treaſon* againſt *God*, and Invade His *Prerogative*. Theſe are they who place the *Power* in the *People*, for *God* Never Gave it them. And it is the Source of all the *Confuſions* in the World.

(7.) Again, who deny the *Delegated Prieſthood* on *Earth*, Deny the *Prieſthood* of *Chriſt* in *Heaven*. For who governs the *Church*, as *God* does the *World*, by *Delegates* under Him. And it is Rejecting His *Authority* Abſolutely, to Reject His *Delegats*, becauſe He governs no otherwiſe, till he comes in *Perſon*. But who will not have him for their *Prieſt*, before that; and in his *Delegats*, will then find Him, to their Sorrow, as their *King*, to Execute *Vengeance*: But none will have Him as their *Prieſt*, that is, their *Saviour*, who have not *Believ'd* in Him as ſuch. The *Prieſt-Craft* men, who make wide Mouths in the *Seat* of *Scorners*, will not be Able to ſtand in that *Judgement*! When they ſhall ſee *Heaven* and *Earth* fly away from before the Face of a *Prieſt*! Even that ſame *Prieſt* againſt whom they have Thruſt out the *Tongue*, and made him their *Sport* all the Day long! Let them not Truſt to a Death-Bed Repentance. We get no new *Thoughts* there, but muſt Feed upon the *Stock* we laid in before.

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